

Siting of Large Municipal Wastewater Outfalls in Central Puget Sound: What Does Society Need to Know to Minimize the Impact of Wastewater Discharges on Puget Sound and How Can Puget Sound Scientists Answer these Questions?

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Abstract

The next five years may bring the siting of one or more large municipal wastewater outfalls in central Puget Sound, potentially in both northern King County and Snohomish County. These facilities may be necessary in response to growth in these areas. The decisions made on siting these outfalls will impact the water quality in Puget Sound for the next century.

- What information can and should Puget Sound scientists provide to environmental managers and elected officials to ensure that these outfalls will have the minimum impact on Puget Sound ?
- Does our present permitting and siting process efficiently accomplish the goals of siting these outfalls for minimum impact and effective operation ?
- Do we know enough to look at Puget Sound as a system when siting wastewater outfalls, rather than siting each outfall individually as has been done in the past ?